# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:399
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2004
DRUG TESTING LABORATORIES
Patil Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government is aware that people are forced to consume sub-standard or fake drugs due to slow working of Government drug testing laboratories;

(b) whether more than 1,000 drug samples collected by the drug control department are lying untested in the Government drug testing laboratories;

(c) whether the drug control department has reduced the monthly sample collection due to shortage of testing staff; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) No specific complaint is available. However, media reports have appeared alleging that drug samples lie untested in Government Laboratories.

(b) & (c) The information in respect of monthly sample collection by all State. Drug Control Departments is not maintained centrally. However, the monthly sample collection as well as the time taken to test the samples varies from State to State depending upon the available infrastructure and manpower. It has been the endeavour of Government of India to ensure that the pendency period is progressively reduced by assisting the States in building and strengthening their testing capacities.

(d) A comprehensive scheme has been undertaken by the Government of India under the World Bank Capacity Building Project for Food Safety and Quality Control of Drugs where one of the objectives is to increase the number of drug samples tested in the country from the present level of about 38,000 samples per year to one lakh samples per year. The second important objective of this scheme is to reduce the delays in testing and bring down reporting time to less than a month. To achieve these objectives the scheme envisages the augmentation of the infrastructural facilities in State Government laboratories and training of drug regulatory and testing manpower.